

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 227

By Brooks K

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Mitchell Cochran on receiving the Claude P. Varney Humanitarian Award.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those exemplary professionals who provide humanitarian services to their fellow citizens with concern and compassion; and

WHEREAS, Mitchell Cochran, a forty-two-year veteran of the grocery industry, is one such worthy individual; he has recently been honored with Food City's highest volunteer honor, the prestigious Claude P. Varney Humanitarian Award; and

WHEREAS, the late Mr. Varney, Food City president and board vice chairman, was known for personal compassion toward his communities and customers, which he demonstrated daily by pioneering a diverse outreach of humanitarian services; and

WHEREAS, like Mr. Varney, Mitchell Cochran is the very epitome of public service, both to his community and to his customers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cochran has spent his entire career in Bradley County, at first with Red Food Stores and BI-LO and for the past two years with Food City; Food City executives respect Mr. Cochran as a "manager whose belief in community and the people who call it home is indicative of the type of culture that surrounds the company's mission and vision"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cochran is revered by his employees and customers alike, and his slate of community service is indeed both impressive and extensive; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cochran serves on the board of the Cleveland Family YMCA, assisting with Family Night promotions for local children and their parents and raising funds for after-school programs as co-chair of its Community Support Campaign; he was named 2008 YMCA

Volunteer of the Year for the Metropolitan Chattanooga area in recognition of his tireless efforts;
and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cochran is a member of the board of directors for Junior Achievement of the Ocoee Region, in which capacity he works to supplement the efforts of classroom teachers in school systems in Bradley and McMinn counties and emcees Junior Achievement's bowling tournament fundraisers in the cities of Cleveland and Athens; and

WHEREAS, he also provides assistance to the Cleveland and Bradley County school systems by supporting field trips, reading nights, and career days and multiple Cleveland and Bradley County churches by donating to their disaster relief teams, food banks, and fundraisers;
and

WHEREAS, other civic projects that Mr. Cochran has embraced on behalf of his Food City South store in Cleveland include the Bradley/Polk County Foster Care Association, Tennessee State National Guard, a project that provides Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for residents at Life Bridges of Cleveland facilities, Bradley County Home Health, American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Habitat for Humanity of Cleveland, Cleveland Police Department and its Night Out Against Crime neighborhood events, and assistance to first responders in the wake of severe weather and tornado relief; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Cochran is most grateful for the love, support, and companionship he shares with his wife, Marcia, and their daughter, Stephanie Grider, and granddaughter, Kayle Bishop; and

WHEREAS, an "old school" grocer in a time of expanding technology, Mitchell Cochran should be recognized for his ongoing commitment to personal customer service and volunteer work for the betterment of his community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Mitchell Cochran on receiving Food City's Claude P. Varney Humanitarian Award, salute his public service in Cleveland and beyond, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.